

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00496 120927Z

13

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AEC-05 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 BIB-01 AECE-00 /080 W

----- 036897

O P 120820Z DEC 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 747

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0496

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON DECEMBER 10, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE DECEMBER 10 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY THE NETHERLANDS REP, UK REP AND US REP, AND EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, POLISH REP STRULAK, AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN. EASTERN REPS ACCUSED ALLIES OF HAVING MAINTAINED A NEGATIVE POSITION OF RIGID REFUSAL TO BUDGE FROM ORIGINAL WESTERN POSITION DURING ENTIRE PAST YEAR, IN CONTRAST WITH REPEATED DEMONSTRATIONS OF EASTERN FLEXIBILITY. ALLIED REPS EMPHASIZED CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE OF THEIR MOVES AND POINTED OUT THAT, AMONG MEASURES THEY HAD PROPOSED DURING THE PRESENT ROUND, PROPOSAL FOR NON-INCREASE ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER REPRESENTED DEFINITE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00496 120927Z

DEPARTURE FROM ORIGINAL ALLIED POSITION. IN REPLY TO EASTERN

REMARKS ON MERITS OF EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL, ALLIED REPS PRESENTED COUNCIL APPROVED GUIDANCE ON THIS SUBJECT. KHLESTOV REPLIED THAT EAST DID INDEED ENVISAGE NATIONAL CEILINGS BUT ASSERTED THAT NATIONAL CEILINGS FOR DURATION OF FREEZE WOULD NOT IMPOSE ANY PRACTICAL BURDEN. IN REPLY TO WESTERN POINT THAT FREEZE AGREEMENT WAS ILLUSORY WITHOUT AGREED DATA, KHLESTOV STATED THAT AGREED DATA WERE NOT A NECESSITY FOR A FREEZE PROPOSAL. GOOD WILL OF PARTICIPANTS COULD BE RELIED ON AND UNILATERAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION WOULD BE SUFFICIENT CHECK.

2. POLISH REP LED OFF WITH HARSH CRITICISM OF ALLIED POSITION THROUGHOUT FIRST NEGOTIATING YEAR. HE CLAIMED THAT SINCE TABLING THEIR NOVEMBER 22 OUTLINE OF PROPOSAL BASED ON EFFORT TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE FOR WEST, ALLIED REPS HAD SHOWN NO READINESS TO SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS. BEYOND THAT, ALLIES HAD ADOPTED NEGATIVE POSTURE ON EVERY COMPROMISE PROPOSAL EAST HAD ADVANCED. US REP REPLIED THAT, TO CONTRARY, EAST HAD REMAINED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ITS ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. WEST HAD SHOWN MARKED FLEXIBILITY AND HAD IN PRESENT ROUND DEPARTED FROM IST OPPOSITION IN PRINCIPLE TO COVERAGE OF AIR FORCES TO ADVANCE PROPOSALS ON NON-INCREASE IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER.

3. CZECH REP KLEIN THEN PRESENTED ARGUMENTS FOR EASTERN INITIAL STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL AND FOR EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. NETHERLANDS REP PRESENTED COUNCIL GUIDANCE ON THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. IN HIS RESPONSE, KHLESTOV SAID HE WAS GLAD ALLIES WERE STUDYING FREEZE IDEA AND THAT THIS FACT INDICATED THAT THEY HAD RECOGNIZED THAT THE CONCEPT OF A FREEZE WAS UNREASONABLE. KHLESTOV CONFIRMED THAT THE EAST ENVISAGED NATIONAL CEILINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FREEZE PROPOSAL, BUT STATED CEILINGS WOULD NOT BE BURDENSOME BECAUSE NONE OF THE WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD PLANS FOR INCREASE AND FREEZE WOULD BE OF ONLY SHORT DURATION UNTIL REPLACED BY REDUCTION AGREEMENT. HE ASSERTED SUCH CEILINGS WOULD NOT HAVE PRECEDENT-SETTING CHARACTER BECAUSE A JOINT NON-INCREASE DECLARATION COULD CONTAIN AN EXPLICIT PROVISION STATING THAT ITS CONTENT DID NOT PREJUDICE THE POSITION OF ANY SIDE AS REGARDS REDUCTIONS. KHLESTOV CLAIMED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE AGREEMENT ON PRESENT FORCE LEVELS IN ORDER TO HAVE A FREEZE AGREEMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00496 120927Z

PARTICIPANTS COULD BE TRUSTED TO MAINTAIN PRESENT LEVELS AND BEYOND THAT, EACH SIDE HAD THE CAPABILITY TO ADEQUATELY CHECK ON COMPLIANCE.

4. UK REP PRESENTED WESTERN REASONS FOR OPPOSING NATIONAL CEILINGS. IN RETURN, EASTERN REPS CLAIMED THAT DESIRE OF WEST TO KEEP OPEN POSSIBILITY OF SPECIALIZATION DID NOT INDICATE NEED FOR INCREASE IN NATIONAL FORCES AND WAS

INADEQUATE RATIONALE FOR COLLECTIVE CEILINGS.  
END SUMMARY

REMAINDER OF REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTEL.RESOR

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, AIR FORCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974MBFRV00496  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740360-1008  
**From:** MBFR VIENNA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741240/aaaabihw.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ACDA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS ON DECEMBER 10, 1974  
**TAGS:** PARM, UK, NL, NATO, MBFR  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005